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# Book of Revelation Offers More than Apocalypse, Says Author of New Book

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March 24, 2000  
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## NEWS RELEASE

### BOOK OF REVELATION OFFERS MORE THAN APOCALYPSE, SAYS AUTHOR OF NEW BOOK

DAYTON, Ohio — Although it's popularly known as the source for apocalyptic prophecies and doomsday predictions, the Bible's Book of Revelation is more accurately seen as delivering one key message: Worship God, says a priest who has studied the writings.

The Rev. Bertrand A. Buby, S.M., is author of *A Journey Through Revelation: A Message for the Millennium* (\$14.95 paperback, Alba House, Staten Island, N.Y.), a new book that focuses on the imagery and symbolism in the New Testament book.

Buby, assistant professor of religious studies at the University of Dayton and research associate of the Marian Library-International Marian Research Institute at UD, will sign copies of his book from 3 to 6 p.m. Sunday, April 2, at the Dayton Country Club, 55 Kramer Road. Copies of the book will be available for purchase.

On display will be the original of the piece of art that serves as the cover of the book, an icon-on-wood rendition of the Angel of Silence owned by Connie Breen, president of the board of trustees of the Marian Library.

Buby recommends a comprehensive view of the book. "If you just read the parts that have been exploited, the apocalyptic bits, you'll get a negative message," Buby said. "So whenever you read the Book of Revelation, you should read it all in one sitting. Then you'll get the primary message: Worship God."

Symbolism plays an important role in Revelation, he said. "The writer uses all kinds of devices and rich symbolism to convey his message — hymns, visions, gems. It's like working with a kaleidoscope. Every time you turn it around, you get a new insight."

To help readers with the "complicated, symbolic language of the author of Revelation, John of Patmos," Buby retells the story in his book using the narrative form of soliloquy. "I walk in the shoes of the original storyteller," Buby said. "It is a remarkable story."

Interpretations that focus on isolated passages — such as the seven seals, the figure 666,

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famine, plagues, earthquakes and the selection of the saved — are taking symbolic passages and applying them to historical figures and occurrences, he said. “That’s a glaring mistake. You’re looking at just one dimension, the dramatic and dark side. What I attempt to do is show that the book is extremely rich in liturgical meaning for prayer and for worship.”

He said it’s primarily Americans who have tried to interpret the Book of Revelation literally, and that began in the early to middle 1800s. “Everyone who has made predictions from the Book of Revelation has been wrong,” he said. “It’s a misuse when you try to make Revelation speak to the events of today. It’s not prophetic. It was written for that time, the 1<sup>st</sup> century of the Roman empire.

“The message I see for Christians today is encouraging a spiritual resistance to secular culture and secular power, not the mosques blowing up and planets and stars falling from the sky. We know better than that.”

The book can be purchased in person or by calling the Marian Library, located on the sixth floor of Roesch Library on campus, (937) 229-4214, and the Family of Mary office in Alumni Hall Room 111, (937) 229-3286. Each office is open weekdays from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Organizers of the book-signing gathering include Breen, Ginny Whalen and Sally Lincoln.

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For media interviews, contact **Father Bertrand A. Buby, S.M.**, at (937) 229-3286 or via e-mail at [bertrand.buby@notes.udayton.edu](mailto:bertrand.buby@notes.udayton.edu).